

## Tough Anti-Narcotics Bill Gets Green Light From Assembly Body

Los Angeles County's tough new anti-narcotics legislative program cleared its first hurdle in Sacramento Wednesday as the Assembly Public Health Committee placed a "do pass" recommendation on both bills, authored by Assemblyman Clayton Dills of Gardena, in submitting them to the lower house.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, whose leadership initiated the measures which will stiffen penalties for convicted dope peddlers, gave strong support to passage of the anti-narcotics measures as he personally testified before the committee.

Hahn declared that passage of the bills to impose severe penalties on convicted peddlers was the first of three steps needed to stamp out narcotics in California.

THE OTHER two essential steps, he said, are:

1. A White House Conference between President John F. Kennedy and President Lopez Mateos of Mexico to establish a permanent joint U.S.-Mexico commission to combat narcotics and specifically to stamp out the sources of narcotics being smuggled into California from Mexico.
2. Segregation and treat-

ment of narcotics addicts, preferably in remote areas such as San Clemente or Santa Barbara islands.

Hahn stated that he was gratified at the definite, swift action taken in approving the bills by the Public Health Committee and hoped that it forecasted fast, favorable action on the measures by the Assembly and Senate.

He pointed out that narcotics is the "people's number one bill before the State Legislature," as well as number one on the County's priority list of legislation.

two man in the Federal Narcotics Bureau, gave strong support for passage of the bills, pointing out that California has 7411 known addicts, of which 5000 live in Los Angeles County.

SPEER POINTED out that Ohio licked its narcotics problem in 1955 with the passage of tough laws, similar to those now before the legislature.

He stated that California is now the number two narcotics "hot spot" in the nation, with 16.5% of all addicts in the nation now living here and warned that the figure would increase to 20 per cent by

next year unless immediate action is taken.

He scored the ease which narcotics violators avoid long confinement under present California laws and stated that it has become a "merry-go-round" situation.

THIS HAS encouraged dope peddlers to come to California from other metropolitan areas such as Seattle, Chicago, and Vancouver, B.C.

Los Angeles County Counsel Harold W. Kennedy outlined the details of the bills and read telegrams of support from the Board of Supervisors and Los Angeles Police Chief William H. Parker.

Others testifying in support of the bills were Sheriff Dan Kelsey of Stanislaus County, president of the State Sheriffs' Assn. and Gardena publisher William J. Hunt. Los Angeles County Sheriff was represented by Chief Fred Fimbrea.

THE COUNTY'S major bill would give sellers convicted of a first offense 10 years to life without parole for 10 years; second offenders of transporting, sale or furnishing narcotics 15 years to life with no parole for 15 years; those over 21 furnishing narcotics to minors terms running from 15 years to life to 30 years to life.



OPENING NIGHT . . . Betty Baker, Torrance Chamber of Commerce, assists Jess and Sol Goldberg cut ribbon in ceremonies at new Hub Furniture store Friday night. Open for business, store located at 23855 Hawthorne Blvd., drew large crowd of shoppers. (Herald Photo)

## Changes in State's Bankruptcy Laws Advocated by Assemblyman

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL  
Assemblyman, 46th District

Bankruptcy is primarily controlled by federal laws, but California state laws are also involved because the federal law provides that if a bankrupt has been domiciled in a state for at least six months before filing his petition for bankruptcy, he gets the benefit of exemptions provided by the laws of the state where he lives. Lawyers cite this as "11 U.S. C.A. Section 24."

A typical bankrupt in the Los Angeles area receives about \$100 per week take-home pay; he owes about \$1250 on his automobile, household appliances and furniture; and he owes about \$3000 to miscellaneous creditors. His total monthly payments to creditors are about twice his income, a collection agency is about to levy on him, and in desperation he consults a lawyer who usually explains that under the very liberal California law a man can go through bankruptcy and still keep property worth as much as \$30,000 even after he is officially declared a bankrupt by the court.

THE CAUSE of this typical average situation is the present California law pertaining to property exempt in a bankruptcy proceeding, but even more basic is the fact that credit is very easy to get in the Los Angeles area.

Big merchants can absorb the losses they suffer when their customers go through bankruptcy, but hospitals, physicians, sureties, and small merchants are getting badly hurt. Therefore, I have introduced my Assembly Bill No. 1717, which amends Section 690.2 of the Code of Civil Procedure, reducing the number of luxury items exempt in a bankruptcy proceeding.

IN 1955 there were 6148 bankruptcy petitions filed in the federal court for the Los Angeles area. In 1960, there were 16,690 bankruptcy petitions filed. Therefore, during the last six years bankruptcy cases tripled in the Los Angeles area. Furthermore, in 1960 the number of bankruptcy filings increased about 45 per cent over the number filed in 1959. Federal authorities report that there were only about 3700 bankruptcy cases in the whole of New York State in 1959, as compared with 12,002 in the southern federal district of California and 4900 more in the northern California district.

Contrary to what many people think, slightly more than 10 per cent of the bankruptcy cases in the Los Angeles area involve business or industry. About 89 per cent are individuals who got into trouble because of the easy credit policy of retailers in the Los Angeles area plus the great popularity

of credit cards. Many people simply cannot resist the temptation to run up bills through the use of credit cards, easy installment buying, or liberal charge accounts.

A CREDIT manager for a large store in the Los Angeles area told me that it costs too much to thoroughly investigate applicants for charge accounts. Even if the applicant gives twelve references, the store may check only three or four.

This loose extension of credit creates losses but such losses are anticipated and taken care of in pricing merchandise. Obviously, as stated above, the small merchant with a small volume of business cannot absorb many losses without going bankrupt himself, and yet he must be fairly liberal in extending credit or his customers will go where credit is easier to get.

I AM THE first to admit that the cure for all the evils of the world is not found in legislation. The old expression "There ought to be a law" is familiar to everyone, but laws in themselves mean nothing unless they are enforced. My Assembly Bill No. 1717 regarding exemption from attachment and exemption of property in bankruptcy cases is only one possible approach to the bankruptcy problem.

Please send your suggestions on this subject to me at Room 4001, State Capitol, Sacramento 14, Calif.

## Bank Execs To Attend Area Meeting

Officers from Bank of America's Torrance branches will join officers from 40 other Harbor area branches at a meeting Thursday at the Long Beach Elks Club. Approximately 300 are expected to attend.

Principal speaker will be Jesse W. Tapp, chairman of the bank's board of directors. He will discuss the economic outlook for the coming year and review monetary and fiscal trends of 1960.

The chairman will be Edward Halsey, manager of the Seal Beach branch. Officers from this area attending will be Harold G. Frenz, R. E. Taylor, Clarence E. Clark, Dorothy Kirkpatrick, Leonard B. Peterson, Ronald J. Carlson, W. Holman Howe, James L. Sutherland, Veva A. Robinson, Mildred Mitchell, Vern Hughes, R. A. Wicks, K. N. Mariucci, Sylvia Melvin, and Dorothy McConnell.

In 1935, the average hourly factory wage could buy five quarts of milk. Today, an hour's work will buy eight to nine quarts.

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One Pound Carton **10¢**

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**JUMBO SIZE  
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2 lbs **25¢**

Crisp and Fresh  
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MAGIC CHEF  
**Pickle-pimiento  
LOAF**  
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Magic Chef, Noted for Quality and Freshness  
**GROUND BEEF**  
For a delicious meat loaf mix a pound and a half of ground beef with half a pound of sausage. Add one cup soft bread crumbs, half a cup of chopped onion, one-half cup milk, two eggs, two teaspoons of salt, one-fourth teaspoon of pepper, a tablespoon of Worcestershire sauce, one teaspoon of onion salt. Mix well.

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**FRYER LEGS & THIGHS 2 lb. Pkg 89¢**

Fresh Genuine Steer, Sliced or Piece  
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Gorton's, Heat-n-Ear, Family Pack Size  
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Here is our George Washington Birthday Special  
**CHERRY PIES 8-inch Pie 49¢**  
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